

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 310864

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. URUGUAY: A SMALL COUNTRY IN THE HORSE LATITUDES

EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO REPORTS THAT URUGUAY'S MILITARY JUNTA IS UNABLE TO FILL THE LEADERSHIP VACUUM LEFT BY ITS OUSTER OF PRESIDENT BORDABERRY LAST JUNE, AND MANY MILITARY OFFICERS NOW VIEW THAT MOVE AS A MISTAKE. ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMY CONTINUES TO PROSPER ON THE MOMENTUM OF PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED BY THE FORMER GOVERNMENT, RULE BY CONSENSUS IS PROVING INEFFECTIVE AND THE JUNTA IS ALLOWING THE SHIP OF STATE TO DRIFT. KEY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO, HAVE LEFT THE GOVERNMENT, AND MORE RESIGNATIONS ARE EXPECTED.

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PAGE 02 STATE 310864

IF THE CURRENT SITUATION CONTINUES, PRESSURE FOR FILLING THE VACUUM MAY INCREASE, EVEN THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO RUSH TO DATE. AT THE MOMENT THE PRIME CANDIDATE SEEMS TO BE THE AMBITIOUS AND CAPABLE GENERAL ALVAREZ, WHO COULD, WHILE REMAINING IN THE BOUNDS OF NATIONAL CONSENSUS,

EXERCISE HIS LEADERSHIP TO ACCELERATE DOMESTIC POLITICAL
LIBERALIZATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) MONTEVIDEO 4928, 12/23.

2. WEST BANKERS MAY OR MAY NOT BE FOR ARAFAT

MAYOR OF RAMALLAH KHALAF, WHO IS REPORTEDLY THE AUTHOR OF
A DRAFT DECLARATION INTENDED TO DEFINE A COMMON WEST BANK
POSITION AT THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL(PNC), TOLD
CONSULATE GENERAL JERUSALEM THAT:

--THE MAJORITY OF PALESTINIANS WITHIN THE PLO AND ON
THE WEST BANK ARE STILL SOLIDLY BEHINE ARAFAT.

--HE WAS HAVING TROUBLE KEEPING SOME WEST BANK
MAYORS IN LINE ON THE PROPOSED DECLARATION, DESPITE
THE FACT THAT THE PRESENT WORDING WAS DESIGNED TO
SUPPORT ARAFAT OVER REJECTIONISTS SUCH AS HABASH.

CONSULATE GENERAL COMMENT: KHALAF'S ADMISSION OF DIF-
FICULTIES WITH WEST BANK MAYORS OVER THE TEXT OF THE
STATEMENT INDICATES SOME WANT TO HEDGE THEIR BETS ON
ARAFAT UNTIL THE DUST SETTLES FROM THE DECEMBER 12
CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING IN DAMASCUS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL
USE) JERUSALEM 1757, 12/22 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
JERUSALEM 1612, 11/23.

3. QUEBEC

A. ESPIONAGE IS, AFTER ALL, A FRENCH WORD

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PAGE 03 STATE 310864

CONSULATE MONTREAL REPORTS THAT AN ARTICLE IN LE DEVOIR
SAYS SEVERAL MINISTERS OF THE PARTI QUEBECOIS (PQ) WILL
ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE PREMIER LEVESQUE OF THE NEED FOR A
PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. LE DEVOIR ALLEGES THIS
MOVE HAS BEEN PROMPTED BY THE POTENTIAL OF INCREASED
ACTIVITY BY FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE
CIA.

CONSULATE COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT THIS AND SIMILAR
REPORTS WILL INTENSIFY THE ANXIETIES OF IMMIGRANTS AND
ANGLOPHONES, MANY OF WHOM SEE RACIST TENDENCIES IN THE
NEW GOVERNMENT AND SUSPECT IT ALREADY HAS BEGUN TO
COLLECT INFORMATION ON NON-FRENCH QUEBECKERS. ALTHOUGH
THESE ANXIETIES SEEM OVERDRAWN, THEY DO REFLECT THE FEAR
THE PQ GOVERNMENT ELICITS IN SOME QUARTERS HERE.

B. SO ARE SOVEREIGNTY, DETENTE,...

CONSULATE QUEBEC REPORTS THAT PREMIER LEVESQUE HAS TOLD THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE TERMS "SEPARATISM" AND "SEPARATION" HAVE BEEN DROPPED FROM HIS GOVERNMENT'S

VOCABULARY AND REPLACED BY "INDEPENDENCE" AND "SOVEREIGNTY." "SEPARATISM" HAS BEEN USED AS A SCARE WORD BY GROUPS OPPOSED TO QUEBEC INDEPENDENCE, AND THE NEW USAGE IS DESIGNED TO BETTER DESCRIBE THE PQ'S ULTIMATE GOALS. THE FRENCH EQUIVALENTS FOR THE NEW WORDS, HOWEVER, ARE QUITE NUANCED AND CAN IMPLY DEGREES OF AUTODETERMINATION MUCH LESS DEFINITIVE THAN THE ENGLISH. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MONTREAL 2017, 12/22 AND (UNCLASSIFIED) QUEBEC 0397, 12/22.
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